

# Media Alert

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## Supporting disability in the workplace

To help celebrate the United Nations' International Day of Disabled Persons, free cake and freshly brewed coffee will be offered all morning to new job seekers at **annecto's** Job Connections office in Werribee this Monday 3 December. Now in their 12<sup>th</sup> year, Job Connections specialises in assisting around 150 new job seekers with disability each year to successfully participate in meaningful employment.

**Case Study:** When 28 year old Michael Hill came to Job Connections, he presented with significant workplace support needs. To support Michael to increase and improve his employment potential, Job Connections provided extensive vocational counseling and pre-employment strategies. Job Connections' employment consultant Zac Swarbrick in conjunction with Michael's employer Elynwood Cleaning Services worked closely with Michael using one-on-one on-site training to successfully place him in long term employment.

Now employed to clean Little River Primary School Michael has been with Elynwood Cleaning services for several months and, according to Elynwood Area Manager Joanne Ison, she could not be happier.

"Michael is an absolute delight to work with- honest, reliable and he does a wonderful job at the school". she said.

"Job Connections' employment consultant Zac Swarbrick works closely with Michael and I to support and assist us in training and communication to ensure the placement is successful. As a result over 60% of our work force is currently comprised of people with disabilities."

**Photo opportunity:** Michael Hill, Joanne Ison, and Job Connections' consultant Zac Swarbrick can be available for a photoshoot on location at the Little River Primary School, Elynwood's Sunshine office or Job Connections' Werribee office.

### Mission statement:

**annecto – the people network** is an independent, not for profit association located in the Northern, Eastern and Western Metropolitan areas of Melbourne, Grampians region and the Loddon Mallee region, and is committed to increasing opportunities and choices and enhancing the quality of life for people with a disability, older persons and their carers.

**Job Connections- a program of annecto** is exclusively designed to provide individualised service to job seekers with disability to successfully participate in employment.

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